

Deer Task Force
Tuesday, August 11, 2015
Town Hall, Old Town Road
7:30 p.m.

Present: Heather Hatfield, Richard Stinson, Paul Deane, Bill McKernan. Also present Ruth Perfido, Town Manager Nancy Dodge and Bonny Ryan to take the minutes. Gloria Redlich was present for the Block Island Times.

Not Present: George Mellor

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Election of Officer:

Bill McKernan moved to appoint Heather Hatfield as Chairman, seconded by Richard Stinson
Ayes 4(Hatfield, Stinson, Deane, McKernan) Nays 0 Absent 1 (Mellor)

2. Approval of minutes of June 8, 2015

Ms. Hatfield moved to approve the minutes of June 8, 2015 seconded by Mr. McKernan
Ayes 4(Hatfield, Stinson, Deane, McKernan) Nays 0 Absent 1 (Mellor)

3. Public Input – A suggestion was made that the number of meetings for the Deer Task Force be reduced from 12 to four: Sept., Jan., March and May. A recommendation will go to the Town Council.

4. Discussion and action on charge change to include elimination of ticks.

At their January 21, 2015 meeting Councilor MacKay moved to amend the charge of the Deer Task Force to include the study of deer ticks and how they may be reduced, seconded by Councilor Warfel.

Discussed was:

- Having an informative article in the Block Island Times. It was noted that after the reduction of the deer herd, the incidence of Lyme disease increases because the ticks use other sources as their hosts (humans, dogs, cats...) It takes two years (the normal tick cycle) for the ticks to die off.
- Education component about products like Damminix.
- Pesticides were judged to be unreasonable.

A motion was made by Heather Hatfield and seconded by Bill McKernan to change the agenda to switch items 5 and 6 and discuss fundraising and advisors.

Ayes 4(Hatfield, Stinson, Deane, McKernan) Nays 0 Absent 1 (Mellor)

5. Appointment of fundraising and development of proposal to conservancy groups advisors

After discussion and history of fundraising, Heather Hatfield moved to request that the Town Council approve the fundraising liaisons, Ruth Perfido and Becky Ballard and have them be liaisons to the Conservancy groups. This was seconded by Mr. McKernan.

Ayes 4(Hatfield, Stinson, Deane, McKernan) Nays 0 Absent 1 (Mellor)

6. Discussion and action on fund-raising letters.

This item will be on hold for the next meeting.

7. Discussion and action on the Town website.

It was approved to continue the website with up to date deer dates and names of hunters wishing to be contacted by homeowners.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. in a motion by Heather Hatfield and seconded by Bill McKernan and voted unanimously.

Minutes approved: September 14, 2015

Bonny Ryan